

THE MIHDI JOON FUND

**Beginning with One,
Spreading to Many**

BRC #547

Spring 2005

Happy Birthday Mihdi!

On May 24th, as the Island celebrates Bermuda Day, Mihdi Brock will celebrate his 8th birthday - another year, another milestone. For the last 5 years, Bermudians have supported The Mission for Mihdi through The Mihdi



Joon Fund. The mission was created by his father Marvin when it was learned that Mihdi would require surgery every 6 months to

treat a little spine that was curving and twisting into a figure 8. Bermudians' generosity has been the essential support for the progress Mihdi has made, and has ensured that he is alive today. The Mission continues.

Mission Statement

The Mihdi Joon Fund is a registered Bermuda charity #547 designed to provide the funding necessary to pay for the treatment and expenses for Mihdi Q. Brock. It shall further work to promote a greater understanding of the benefits of Oriental medicine and how it complements traditional Western medicine.

As well, The Mihdi Joon Fund is designed to assist those seeking to use Oriental medicine for the treatment of illnesses and diseases for which they cannot afford to pay. This foundation is seeking to create an endowment fund that will manifest these goals.

Five Years Later - How Have We Done

How effective has this pursuit of The Mission for Mihdi been these last eight years, and that of the Mihdi Joon Fund since its inception in 2000 been?

Clinical observation shows that Mihdi appears to be straighter and more comfortable with walking and running. His overall health and development appear to have improved dramatically. While this improvement continues, constant effort is needed to ensure that he continues to progress and does not lose any ground.

1. Mihdi is alive and relatively healthy. Other than the occasional cold, Mihdi has had no incidents of illness for the last two years due to constant monitoring and herbal therapies.
2. He is functioning almost normally in society.
3. Mihdi's Kyphoscoliosis has been arrested to date. Further testing is scheduled.
4. The prognosis is that, on his current treatment plan, he will live a close to normal life until age 40 or 45. In order for him to live longer than that, he will have to do much, much more.
5. With his current treatment plan, there is no need for corrective surgeries in the near future. Mihdi is walking, and looks straighter in his clothes. He appears relatively normal when clothed.
6. Although his speech has improved dramatically since he began treatment with Dr. Wu, some people encountering him for the first time find it challenging to clearly understand his speech.

Areas that need attention for optimal results and that require additional financial support beyond what is needed for daily treatments, care and support:

1. Mihdi requires a tutor in order to improve academically. He
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See inside for the full story on Mihdi's support teams and his progress.

Update: Mihdi's Progress and His Treatment Teams

Annually, Mihdi's academic Individual Education Plan is reviewed by the members of his team. On April 27th, Mihdi's team sat down to review his progress toward his education goals that were set last year. The team members include the principal, the school psychologist, his special education homeroom teacher, speech therapist, occupational therapist, adaptive physical education specialist, mainstream teacher, mom Claire, and dad Marvin. While he appears to be having some difficulties with keeping up his motivation, and his level of achievement is not quite on par for his age level, he is making progress. It is thought that an individual tutor will help this aspect of his development.

During the meeting, Marvin Brock reported that Mihdi is also being evaluated by traditional Western Medical specialists at U.C.L.A. Medical School. These specialists include an orthopedic surgeon (for his spine), cardiologist (for his heart), nephrologist (for his kidney), neurologist (for his brain), and his pediatrician. It is hoped that these specialists will make up a team of doctors to monitor his condition into the future. This type of diagnostic work-up has not been done since he was at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital and Boston Children's in 1999-2000. Since then, an Oriental medical approach to Mihdi's condition has primarily been pursued to avoid the rigors of repeated spinal surgeries and the side effects and future complications of this invasive approach. The diagnostic procedures will help to determine if there is an improvement or worsening of his condition over the last 5 years since the last series was done.

Marvin was happy to report that the results of the recent consultation with the orthopedic surgeon at U.C.L.A. show that there is no apparent progression of his Progressive Kyphoscoliosis. So, even though there was the potential for a difference in opinion between the New England doctors who saw him in 2000, and this doctor because of variations in the calibration of the respective machines, and differences in measuring and calculating the curvature by the respective doctors, the recent testing indicates that his little spine has not worsened in the last 5 years.

Dr. Wu feels that Mihdi needs more focused attention from Marvin, in particular with his physical therapies. Mihdi is in a growth phase of his development; at the same time, his spine is hardening, and, as a result, the work to straighten it more needs to be more frequent – every 15 minutes when he is not asleep, in school, or on the treatment table in Dr. Wu's office. This is being done.

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I --
I took the one less traveled by,
and that has made all the difference.
--Robert Frost

“Chinese medicine has more than 4000 years of history. It is a time-proven medical science. It cannot only treat common diseases, but also difficult and problematic ones. Many diseases which Western medicine has not been able to successfully treat such as asthma, arthritis, coronary heart disease, congestive heart failure, many musculo-skeletal disorders, cancers, and other life-threatening illnesses have been successfully treated by Chinese medicine.

So, not only can Chinese medicine treat chronic diseases, but also acute ones, and this can be done successfully because it is based upon scientific philosophy. Over the last forty years, it has produced many scientific theories. I foresee the 21st century bringing about the integration of Chinese and Western medicine for the benefit of all mankind. We shall all dedicate ourselves to this end.”

Prof. Jianfu Jiang, L. Ac., MD(China)
President
China International Medical University

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The Royal Gazette

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Father: Island 'angels' keeping Mihdi alive

By Stuart Roberts

The father of seven-year-old Mihdi Joon Brock said he has come to Bermuda to raise money so his sick son can continue treatment and stay alive.

Marvin Brock said the only reason that his son is still alive was because of the donations of Bermudians he called "angels" – some of whom he pointed to in the Baha'i National Centre on Cedar Avenue at the weekend.

Of the six people who went to see the documentary, "The Mission for Mihdi" in Hamilton, half were "angels" there to see the miracle they helped to happen, the life of a seven-year-old boy.

Mihdi was born on Bermuda Day, May 24, in 1997 to a life that was going to be filled with challenges.

"Nature or God had a plan that he was going to live," Mr. Brock said.

At six months old, Mihdi was diagnosed with a rare disorder called progressive kyphoscoliosis, that means his back bone is severely curved.

Mihdi's spine is shaped like an "S".

When he was a baby, Mihdi also needed doctors to fix his aorta, in his heart, which had completely blocked. Doctors said that he had fluid on his brain.

Although Western medicine is the primary method of treatment of Mihdi, Eastern techniques have helped his fragile body.

As they travelled the world looking for help, in the White Cloud temple in Beijing, China, Mr. Brock discovered that one of their top doctors, Baolin Wu, had moved to California to practise acupuncture, massage and herbal treatments.

Mihdi moved to California and began to see Dr. Wu two hours a day, five times a week. Dramatic results became apparent after treatment.

"During the past year Mihdi has been able to run, swim and speak more than ever before. With the curvature of the spine not worsening, finally, he will be able to gain some weight and have a better quality of life," Mr. Brock said.

Unfortunately as he has become more healthy, the funds have decreased when the need is as great as ever."

"I don't like asking for any money for me. My teeth are rotting out. My dentist told me not to pull too many out," he said.

Mr. Brock is off work to care for his son and raise money for his treatment.

Mihdi is now in school. He is often late because after wakes from his plywood bed he must eat some of the 120 herbs prescribed by Dr. Wu.

"He's seven, he does not like to eat herbs ... If we are out by five minutes, the whole morning can be off," he said.

Every 15 minutes, Mihdi must be held up by his head to straighten the spine. Every night his feet are massaged in hot water and gets several medical massages.

There was another showing of the documentary, made in Hollywood, last night at the Chamber of Commerce.

Donations for Mihdi to continue his treatment may be made to: The Mihdi Joon Foundation, PO Box, HM 1987, Hamilton HMHX Bermuda or visit www.thelotus.com.

"This (treatment) is working, if he did have to have spinal surgery, I don't know if he would survive it ... The situation is real simple. Bermudians have raised the money for Mihdi to be here today," he said.

The Mihdi Joon Fund

P. O. Box 1987
Hamilton, HM HX

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Spreading to Many**

ǒ We would like to be a corporate sponsor and would like to make an annual donation of:

- ǒ\$250 ǒ\$500 ǒ\$1,000
- ǒ\$2,000 ǒ\$5,000 ǒ\$10,000
- ǒ Other _____

ǒ I would like to be an individual sponsor and would like to make an annual donation of:

- ǒ\$250 ǒ\$500 ǒ\$1,000
- ǒ\$2,000 ǒ\$5,000 ǒ\$10,000
- ǒOther _____

ǒ I would like to be a donor.

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Address:

Telephone: day -
evening -

Fax:

Email:

Additional Information you would like us to know about you:

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must also attend Tae Kwon Do and swim classes to assist with his progress and help to maintain good health. The Tae Kwon Do will also help to straighten his lower spine.

2. Domestic help is needed to enable Mihdi’s father to focus time on the physical therapies that must be carried out every 15 minutes when Mihdi is not in school, treatment or asleep, and nutritional attention to deal with Mihdi’s difficulties in thriving. He is small and underweight for his age being unable to reach and maintain the 40 lb. mark yet.

3. Marvin must resume his medical school training in order to be in a position to assume a greater role in Mihdi’s care and treatment in the next four years when Dr. Wu’s treatments will begin to be phased out, although those treatments will not stop completely.



“A Child’s Life is a Wonderful Thing to Save”

Won’t you please join us in this effort to ensure that Mihdi avoids repeated surgeries and continues his growth to a fulfilling life, and then as The Mihdi Joon Fund goes forward to ensure that others are able to partake of Oriental medical treatments they may need, but cannot afford to pay for, as they strive towards greater health, and we thus contribute to the greater community.

Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it. -- Helen Keller